

# Central China Record

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April, 1904

*According to your faith be it unto you*

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23

MONDAY, CHINKIANG

THURSDAY, KIUKIANG

TUESDAY, NANKING

FRIDAY, NANCHANG

WEDNESDAY, WUHU

SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG

SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION

## May the Good Work Go On

The letter from Dr. G. A. Stuart, in regard to the work of the "Church at Home" finds its counterpart in revivals on the field.

The world is one, and even far across the seas the Spirit that is stirring the home church is being felt.

This increase of interest is timely. The harvest is being reaped, some of it by non-Christian forces. The result will necessarily be a greater delay in the spread of the gospel. It is therefore very gratifying to see that everywhere the church is awakening to its opportunity.

We need an outpouring of God's spirit on those who are now on the foreign fields and we need additional consecrated men and women ready to devote their lives to this work.

As the Church increases in her interest may she also increase in her giving of men and money.

W. F. W.

## The Church at Home

It is safe to say that never before has there been such enthusiasm on the part of the Church for the salvation of the world. This is evidenced in many ways. The first great State Convention ever held for missions convened at Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 23-25. This was a delegated convention, the attendance limited to one thousand. Every seat was taken, and although delegates paid all their own expenses including an entrance fee of one dollar, as many more tickets could have been sold. And this was to talk and hear about missionary work. Even ten years ago such a meeting would have been next to impossible.

One phase of the convention work was an educational exhibit. This was well stocked with things of interest from every part of the world ; with full sets of missionary literature for mission study classes, Epworth Leagues, Sunday Schools, and for private reading ; with charts statistical, graphic, geographic and comparative. And this exhibit was crowded during the hours it was open, and representatives for each part of the field were kept busy answering questions. While curios elicited much interest, questionings were by no means confined to these ; and it was very encouraging to note that those things most directly connected with the work of evangelization elicited the most interest.

Mission study classes are being organized throughout the church ; some in Sunday Schools, in Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary Societies, in Volunteer Bands, in Standard Bearer Societies, and in some cases men or women are pursuing the recommended courses privately. The church is being informed in regard to the great problem of the world's salvation by most excellent and inspiring courses of reading and study. This is most hopeful, and should greatly encourage the heart of the missionaries on the field.

As a result of all this the Church is praying and paying as never before. Prayers and gifts are becoming more systematic. In short, it begins to look as if the Church were at last going to make serious business of "discipling all nations" very shortly.

G. A. S.

### The Revival in Nanking

The most notable work of grace I have ever seen in China, and unsur-

passed by, any I have ever known in the home land, is now in progress in our Nanking University Chapel. The President, Dr. Geo. A. Stuart, now at home on furlough, had written suggesting that special meetings be held beginning with Easter Sunday, and he would ask Christians at home to remember the students in prayer. For a preliminary week prayer meetings were held daily at the university, the girls' school and the women's school, and even before the dawn of Easter morn there were not wanting signs of coming blessing. It was among the women and the girls that the fire first began to burn. Many of them who were professing Christians either felt that they were not truly converted, or that they were living far below their privileges in Christ Jesus. By the second or third night of the meetings these were crowding the altar, and it was not long before all but the very smallest in the girls' school were either seeking salvation or heart cleansing. The boys were slower in coming forward, and up to the present writing the work of the Spirit is not so marked as among the women and the girls.

At the end of a week there were scores at or about the altar, and there could be no thought of stopping the meetings. How we wished some of our home friends could have shared with us the joy of the harvest. It might have strengthened the faith of some who have an idea that it is necessary to wait till the second or third generation before seeing spiritual results comparable to those at home. And so we must if that is the measure of our faith, for according to your lack of faith, so shall it be unto you. If our friends had been present they would not have understood a word, but they could



not have doubted the mighty working of God's Spirit. A lady Methodist traveler, happening to visit Nanking at the time of the meetings was greatly impressed with what she saw and heard. She wished to see mission work, and she saw it in its most glorious fruitage.

There was almost constant rain during the second week of the meetings, but it had little effect on the attendance. When some small girls were left at home one night on account of the rain, they at once set to and had a meeting among themselves. So great became the longing for blessing that among the women and girls a whole day was given up to prayer and confession of sins. Two days later a day was given to prayer among the university students with blessed results. Frequently at the altar services a score or more would be praying in subdued tones in different parts of the house at the same time, yet no one felt that there was any confusion. It was rather a foretaste of the perfect harmony of praise in heaven. So unconscious were they of each other that often two or three would be testifying at once in different parts of the house. And the testimonies, given with shining faces, and often with deep emotion, were some of the best I have ever heard. There was no uncertain sound. Not only to salvation, but to heart cleansing and Spirit filling was the glad testimony of a large number. The fruits of the Spirit were shown in a longing to see others saved, and many did most loving and effective service. What a blessed training school for future service! May many hear the divine call to the harvest field!

It is a matter of great regret to the writer to be compelled to leave Nanking at such a time; but the

work is still in progress, and the Holy Spirit is the leader. Already between forty and fifty have been converted, and many Christians have received great blessing. Just now there is a special concentration of prayer and effort on the large number of unconverted boys, many of whom it is felt are not far from the kingdom. Oh for mighty prayer at home that God may grant such gracious outpourings of his spirit over all China!

S. LEWIS.

### A Day of Prayer and its Results

A whole day during the revival in Nanking was given up to fasting and prayer in the Women's Training School; a continuous service of prayer from 9 A.M. till noon, followed immediately after the noon rest by a service from one to four. The girls' Boarding School in the same compound followed its schedule of classes, but with the understanding that any one could attend any session they desired.

As the interest intensified in the Women's school the ranks in the girls' school gradually thinned, and by night only a few besides the primary girls but were found in the meeting on the other side.

It was following this day of intense prayer that there arose such a marked reason of confession of sins. Such reason of confessing has perhaps never been known before in our church in Nanking. It means something to confess sins, to make right some wrong we have done a brother. It means something when we do it ourselves; it is hard, and just as hard for them, our Chinese friends and Christians. But when the Spirit gets mightily after one in

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conviction, he must confess or else lose hold on all he has. This phase of the revival, the confession of specific sins was chiefly manifested in the Girls' Boarding School. Confessing to each other, to their teachers, and even letters of confession to the teacher at home on furlough, filled one whole evening and the beginning of a new day. But you should have heard the glad victorious testimony meeting that followed it all. Faces were radiant and time not sufficient to hear them all. For all this we owe our deepest gratitude, and offer our greatest praises to God.

M. R. W.

## Girls' School, Kiukiang

"Mulberry Grove Academy" opened for the new year with an enrollment of seventy. Owing to lack of dormitory accommodations, a number who applied could not be received. It has been made a fixed rule that every student shall pay at least one dollar a month while those

who can afford it pay twenty-five dollars a year. This year only one, who is supported by a foreigner, pays the full tuition of fifty dollars. By means of the industrial department, however, every girl is given an opportunity of working at something or other, and thus helping to earn her board, so that she need not feel that she is a "charity pupil." There has been a very good spirit among the girls throughout the whole year, and all are ready to do their share that matters may move along smoothly.

Since Miss Dreibelbies has taken charge of the orphans and removed them to the Women's School building there has been room for a few more pupils in the dormitories of the Girls' School. An innovation which has been gradually introduced and is now practically established, is that every girl shall have her separate bed. It required much time, as well as labor, to accomplish this; but the results reward the endeavor.

Kiukiang is an extremely conservative city and therefore an especially hard field for an institution of this nature. A reform party is doing much work among a certain class of the people, and many of the literary and official citizens are agitating the question of the emancipation of women. They feel that the girls of China ought to have equal privileges and advantages with the girls of other nations. Unfortunately, while this tendency is toward greater freedom for women, the question of morality and clean living among the men is practically overlooked; and many a father, while helping his daughter into this emancipation, forgets that liberty without the force of mind and character to use it rightly, is a



curse rather than a blessing. A great number of literary men have gone to Japan within the past year, to study ways and means from their sister nation. The great tendency in Kiukiang is toward Confucianism, and were our school one in which the Gospel is not taught there would now doubtless be twice as many applicants as could possibly be accommodated. Much credit is due to our German-educated pastor, Mr. Hu, for insisting upon all young men who enter the ministry sending the girls to whom they are betrothed either to the girls' or women's school according to their age. Nearly all of the girls in the school are from families at least with Christian affiliations, and quite a number have been converted and baptized during the year.

GERTRUDE HOWE.

### Two Phases of Medical Work

Last week I was called in to see a two year old boy whose life might have been spared except for the over attentiveness of kind relatives. The fever had left him in a weak condition. The relatives because "the child wanted it" dressed him and let him go about as he pleased regardless of orders. So when I was sent for next time I was met by two servants on the way hurrying the chair coolies because the child was dying.

Such wailing and howling as I verily believe only heathen Chinese can produce upon such an occasion, met me at the entrance. The mother cries, "What great sin have I committed to cause the death of my child? What kind of sinner am I not to be able to keep a single child?

The numerous relatives who have come to see the child wail in a loud voice and try to comfort the young woman by saying, "Oh, you must not cry like that! You must leave standing room for your mother. If you have sinned what greater sin your mother-in-law must have committed not to keep a single grandson at her age!" Thereupon the old grandmother takes her note and beats herself on the ground threatening to cause a second death in the family.

"Oh," she screams, "I knew the child hadn't come to stay because he was too good. He wouldn't go to his mother at all; he only loved me.

Wherever I went he followed and he always waited on me so," and further remarks not to be written.

A sly priest came in and daubed the child's face with soot. All of a sudden the grandmother called out, "Who has touched my child?" There was a hush in the room. Then the priest came forward and said, "I ordered it done." It is to prevent his spirit coming back to you in the next grandchild. This is not your grandson; if he were he would have remained with you but he was only a creditor coming back to collect his debt. The daubing of the soot will prevent his entrance into your family again and when you have another grandson he will live to be a hundred years old."

It is very difficult to sow Gospel truths at such times except broadcast since their minds are so set upon their old beliefs. Amidst howling and wailing one can scarcely wedge a word in.

But the picture has an obverse side. A little girl of eight who had been in our hospital for some time went home for the Chinese New

Year. She was disgusted with all the idol worship at such times and insisted that this year her folks should not offer incense. So whenever she could she teased and cried and explained that those idols were not true and that they must worship Jesus. When people came to visit they called her "Jesus' disciple." When asked to pay a New Year's visit to her grandfather's grave she knew it meant worship to the dead. She replied, "If you want me to worship I will not go but if you will not compel me to worship I shall go and pray to God at his grave." Is not this a case where "a little child shall lead them?" "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings the Lord hath perfected praise."

MARY STONE.

### Klukiang Bible Training School

We opened our Women's School March 8th, with 3 new students. We are glad to see our native preachers, in school, wake up and bring their wives to the Women's School; for we are sure it will help them in their work.

At our last Annual Meeting the Orphans, who heretofore were crowded in an overcrowded school building, were given into my charge; so now they are enjoying the empty rooms of our Women's School building. You shall hear more about these little ones later on. We have also made a little start in city missionary work, though greatly hindered by the rain. On Sunday March 13th, we started a Sunday-school at our back street chapel and it looked very promising.

C. J. D.

S. S. "Seydlitz."

8th March 1904.

To the Central China Record,

Dear Bro. Editor:—

We are now gliding along between Singapore and Penang. Our voyage thus far has been delightful. The sea and weather both good. Had the making of the sea been within my power I could not have made it more to my liking than what it has been.

We have a large company of missionaries on board, from China, Japan, Phillipines, Singapore, Johore, and Borneo—and quite a number of other passengers most of whom are quite congenial as traveling companions.

Yesterday had a good visit with our missionaries in Singapore. Their Annual Conference had just closed its session. The itinerant wheel had made its revolutions, so we found some of the missionaries busily packing preparatory to moving to their new fields of labor.

I saw a little of our school work, and I, acting as a little crooked thing like these ??, pried the brethren with many questions regarding their work. Dr. West was my target, and I learned from him and others, that their best and most hopeful work was among the Chinese. They credit the Chinese as being the best type of the Asiatics found in this section of the world.

The Chinese are in great evidence down here and easily hold their share of the trade. I met Dr. West's class of Chinese young men and found them an interesting company. They were very anxious to hear about our work in Central China, especially the school work.



I got news of a young man, well known in Central China who had just recently passed through Singapore by the name of W. C. Longden. He visited the Zoo and among those whom he interviewed was, "The wild man from Borneo." They came in such close contact with each other that the "Wild man from Borneo" snatched the spectacles from the nose of the young man from China broke the frame to pieces and ate the glasses.

The young man from China, remarked, "I hope the gentleman from Borneo *sees* what he is eating." It may be that the Borneo man knew that all Chinese gentlemen take off their glasses when addressing other people and the young man from China not doing so, was thus rebuked by the "Wild man from Borneo." With the family I visited the botanical garden and the Zoo, saw the Borneo man, found him calm and inoffensive.

We have just rounded the most Southern point of Asia and are now steaming a little North of West for Penang where we hope to anchor at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

With our greetings to the entire mission.

Yours Sincerely,

DON. W. NICHOLS.

### Then and Now

It is no unusual thing to feel greatly the loss upon the field of those who are closely associated with us in work. Not only is our own work increased by their home going, but the wise counsel, and friendly coöperation is hard to replace.

It is unusual however for the community in Nanking to feel so keenly its loss, when the younger generation goes home, as it now feels that loss. When the writer first came to China, he was asked to take charge of a Sabbath School of the foreign children in Nanking. Among them were Dr. Beebe's two daughters Josette, and Margaret. Eight years have passed, and those whom we were teaching have applied themselves so diligently that they themselves have become teachers. The privilege of a year or two in Switzerland has made those two Sabbath School pupils of ours very proficient in Music and French and in the latter they have for sometime been instructing the foreign children of Nanking, together with their mother, giving freely of their own time and strength to help others. In church services and in social gatherings the two sisters have ever been ready to give willing and efficient help.

They have left us, we hope but for the season while the added training is necessary, and trust in later years to again see them where they have already been most welcome workers.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we write these few words. The children are a very important, and frequently numerous part of our missionary communities; and those who do so well with the few advantages the missionary life provides deserve every recognition they may receive.

### Notes from Kiukiang

Wm. Nast College opened the new year the first week in March, with an enrollment of about eighty. Quite a number have entered since then, making a total enrollment of 91.

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